25: Brodrick--101 [2] S-3 (1939) 1948 Laotians
116, 262, 272, 342, 352

"[HD: The Laotian's] bamboo house on stumpy piles costs nothing to make. He has no furniture, no chairs, no tables. He sleeps on a mat. There may be a few bowls in his hut, but most of the meal is served on palm-leaves. His food is simple--rice, salt fish in brine, raw pork chopped up and smothered in a pungent, aromatic sauce, cakes of rice and bananas (and delicious they are), and he eats iguanas, alligator's eggs and red ants.

When he is not swigging lao, or rice-alcohol, he drinks water and uses tea--Laotian tea is poor stuff--as we did until a few generations ago, as medicine."

101 [261] [Illustration] [262] [Blank page] [263] As far as marriages, deaths, etc. go, we find practically the same customs among the Kha tribes of southern Laos as among their fellows in northern Laos.

231 It should be noted that the Rades breed a variety of small horses
439 which are highly prized in Annam, Laos and Siam.

[533] "These Khas love music and dancing. Their favorite instruments are gongs and bells.

534 "A set of gongs consists of seven, nine or twelve single ones. Made of copper and often very beautiful, these gongs take the shape of a cylinder from forty to eighty centimeters in diameter, only one end of which is closed by a vibrating plate. The cap worn by our judges and professors, although on a smaller scale, gives a fairly clear idea of the shape of these instruments. A few of the instruments are artfully cast and ornamented with much elegance. There is a solid ring about a third of the way along the gong's length which is part and parcel with the rest of the gong and makes it possible to hang it up on a side of the house, at about the height of a man's head, by means of a rattan thong fastened to the frame.

"The performers stand facing the battery and pummel it with their fists, taking care to strike the vibrating plate in the center so that it will emit a true tone. This procedure produces perfect musical notes, which are accompanied by the dull resonances of the tom-toms and the sharp sonorities of the bells made of a copper and tin alloy. The gongs bring a high price, and when it is a fine one a complete series is worth from 1,200 to 1,500 francs.

"In some villages the performers each take an instrument and hold it in a sling fastened to their shoulder, then form a column in single file. This Indian-style procession marches from the center of the house towards one of its extremities, striking more and more gently as it moves away from its point of departure. Then it returns to the center, unleashing a compensating crescendo. The maneuver begins again towards the other end of the house, and the musical promenade continues until the musicians are exhausted.

535 "When the Khas begin to play and perform the Kimlang (a very
• 272 stirring war dance) and the warriors grow excited from dancing and
579 from drinking rice wine, it is wise to make them stop as soon as they begin to pick up their weapons, for when drunk with alcohol and enflamed with ardor they are no longer masters of themselves.

714 "War dress includes feathers in the hair and a sort of cross of Saint Andrew formed of cloth rolled and crossed on the chest. Weapons, quivers, arrows, crossbows, bucklers, spears and swords complete their equipment.

396 is also cut out with a hatchet so as to decrease the thickness of the walls and render them more elastic.

When the pirogue is as wide as is desired, or else as wide as the wood being used will allow without any danger of splitting or bursting, strong rectangular crossbraces are set at regular intervals and tailed into the sides of the pirogues a few centimeters below the gunwales. When it has reached this state the pirogue is virtually finished. It has its final shape, and looks like the elongated half of a fish which has been split lengthwise.

All that remains is to finish the work by giving the bottom and sides the requisite thickness, by polishing the wood, smoothing the curves, etc.

Finally comes the moment of launching. It must be said, to the honor of the builders' sure eye and skill, that it is always successful and that once put into water the pirogue behaves well in its element, with a light and graceful balance.

396 The price of pirogues varies depending on their dimensions and [466] the region, and can therefore not be fixed in any absolute 439 fashion. A new pirogue, in fact, costs from 50 to 300 francs. In 435 Cambodia a pirogue from Laos costs twice what it cost in its land of origin. Thus it may readily be imagined that pirogues are exported from Lower Laos in fairly large numbers. The statistics for 1899 show exports of 552 pirogues of various dimensions, with a [Illustration here] total value of 55,195 francs, or an average purchase price of 100 francs apiece.

398 Cartwrights. The construction of carts, wagons, pack-saddles for oxen and elephant palanquins is a specialized industry only on the right bank and in Siam. In French Laos carts are little used because of the nature of the terrain, and there are no cartwrights. Pack-saddles for oxen and elephant palanquins are made by nearly everyone, particularly by drovers and carnacs.

317 Lime. Lime is made in Laos, primarily for inclusion in betel
276 masticatories.

[467] The kilns are dug in the clay on banks of watercourses, near calcareous masses from which limestone is taken.

272 Alcohol. The distillation of grain--rice, maize and hemp-seed--is not an industry in the strict sense, for every village and every family makes alcohol on occasion.

272 The distillation methods used are good ones, but the equipment used leaves much to be desired and does not make it possible to obtain rectified alcohol of a high degree. By taking 25 or 28 proof native alcohol and distilling it for a second time with European equipment, a fairly good-tasting alcohol can be obtained which is 68 to 72 proof.

389 Powder-making. The inhabitants of Laos make the powder themselves which they use for hunting and for fireworks. They know how to proportion and triturate the ingredients--charcoal, saltpeter (1)

[317] (1) The saltpeter which is collected in grottoes containing calcareous rocks is chiefly made up of masses of droppings from birds and bats. The bat is called "Kiea" and saltpeter "Khi-Kiea," or, literally, Droppings of bats.

and sulphur--in order to make either explosive powder or fusing powder.

792 The bonzes are the fireworks-makers par excellence who make
527 the many and varied fireworks without which no celebration is really
389 complete. Bombs, firecrackers, Roman candles, serpents, pinwheels, etc. and, in a word, almost all the usual fireworks are made using rudimentary processes and local products.

389 The rockets (Bang-Fai) deserve special mention. They consist of a body containing fusing powder, to which is attached a wick several meters long and made of spun cotton or sometimes even of paper. The latter is smeared with mealed gunpowder mixed with gum, and the whole is fastened to a directing shaft. If the rocket is an Aeolian one, its rear is provided with a kind of Pan's pipe made of bamboo tubes which gives forth a harmonious sound as it describes its trajectory in the air.

The rockets vary greatly in size. In some the powder weighs only a few decagrams, and [468] the guide shaft is from two to three meters long. Other larger ones carry a "Mune" of powder (about 12 kilograms) and sometimes more, and the guide shaft is a whole stalk of bamboo some 15 meters long and from 12 to 15 centimeters in base diameter.

Rockets are generally decorated with gilded or colored paper. With the application of rice paste motifs, some of them manage to look very like a dragon with threatening jaws and terrifying eyes, and in these the body envelops the shaft and the head contains the Aeolian harp as well as the powder cylinder. The stands used for launching

149: Reinach--452 G-3 (no date) 1901 AM1 Indochina
Laotians AM8

The following table gives the composition of each of these blends:

272 Quality | White points | Delicate green leaves | Large leaves

1st quality	10%	30%	60%
2nd quality	5	15	80
3rd quality	2	5	93

Preparation. After harvesting the leaves are placed on mats in the sun, where they wither and become soft. They are then slightly torrefied in a copper or cast-iron basin placed over a hot fire. This operation, which lasts only a few moments and during which the leaves are constantly stirred and sifted, is designed to remove all the natural moisture which they contain and thus make sure that they will not spoil later on.

Molding and wrapping. Blends are made when the tea is molded, for the tea of these regions is sold in the form of cakes .25 meter in diameter or of cylinders six or seven centimeters in diameter. The different qualities of leaves are placed within easy reach and the different weights of each kind [154] which will be mixed together to make up a cake or cylinder are measured out. Then the mixing itself is done in marble, cast-iron or wooden molds after the leaves have been exposed to steam for a few seconds. The tea is compressed in the molds, the latter are heated, and when they are opened their contents are dry, hard and homogeneous. The cakes or cylinders are then wrapped in bamboo leaves or leaflets and tied with rattan. A package of tea in the form of cakes includes seven of the latter and weighs 1.2 kilograms.

[157]

APPENDIX XXVIII
REPORT AND REGULATIONS ON SLAVERY

567 The problem of slavery for debt is one of the most difficult ones to solve.

177 That of slavery resulting from capture has been solved very easily. The Siamese had already given orders for it to be stopped, and although it still existed in certain provinces, principally in those of Lower Laos, this was due to the fact that the Siamese high mandarins voluntarily closed their eyes, thanks to large sums which were paid to secure their cooperation and which constituted one of their largest sources of income.

As soon as we assumed the administrations of the country the Laotians sounded us out on this subject. They soon realized that our